

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 15-34 are pending in the application, with 15, 30 and 34 being the independent claims. Claim 1 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 2-14 were sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein by a preliminary amendment filed on October 7, 2003. New claims 15-34 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-14 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-14 is moot.

New Claims 15-34

Applicant has added new claims 15-34. These claims contain patentable features over the inventions claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,531,923 and U.S. Patent No. 6,714,080, to which the present application claims priority. Applicant is submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 35 CFR 1.321(c) to preclude an obviousness-type double patenting rejection and to be responsive to the double patenting rejection made by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on March 1, 2004.

Support for new claims 15-34 is contained throughout the entire specification of the present applicant. For example, see in particular, figures 2-5 of the present application and the written description thereof, and claims 1-10, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,531,923, which is incorporated into the present application by reference.

Conclusion

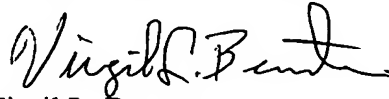
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9/1/04

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